(d) and (e) Speeds are increased on any section after conducting Oscillograph and Track recording car trial runs and obtaining sanction from the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS).

(f) Introduction of these trains is an ongoing process hence no time frame has been set.

(g) Upgradation of a section for higher speed involves improvement in track, rolling stock, signalling and other infrastructure. This varies from project to project, therefore, details of the extra expenditure cannot be specified.

Ban on smoking scenes in films and TV serials

*145. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed a ban on smoking scenes in films and Television serials with effect from 2nd October, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of film industry, if any, received by Government; and

(d) how Government propose to tackle foreign films having smoking scenes released in theatres?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Based on the WHO study that 76% of the Indian movies portrayed tobacco consumption and existence of a strong linkage between films and youth behaviour;the Cohort study published in the Lancet (2003) revealing that 52% of smoking initiation amongst children can be attributed to exposure to smoking in films; and the provisions contained in the "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" prohibiting any person to promote the use or consumption of tobacco products, the Government of India notified on 31.05.2005 "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products [Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution (Amendment)] Rules, 2005" imposing a ban on display of tobacco products and their usage in movies/television. This is in addition to the existing provisions under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 read with rules framed thereunder to the effect that scenes fending to encourage, justify or glamorize consumption of tobacco or smoking are not shown. In a recent study on "Exposure to movie smoking: Its relations to smoking initiation among US adolescents", published in PEDIATRICS, corroborates that smoking in movies is a risk factor for smoking initiation among US

adolescents. Limiting exposure of young adolescents to movie smoking could have important public health implications.

Taking into consideration the technical issues raised by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the difficulties pointed out by the film industry, the Government has notified on 30th November 2005 to provide for certain relaxation/exemptions in the rules. As per these provisions no individual or a person or a character in cinema and television programmes shall display tocacco products or their use. Exemptions to these provisions are:

- Indian films and televisions programmes displaying use of tobacco products necessary to represent the smoking or tobacco usage of a real historical figure or for representationof a historical era
- Old Indian films and TV programmes produced prior to coming effect of this notification
- foreign films and television programmes, including dubbed or sub-titled foreign films or television programmes
- Indian or foreign films and TV programmes clearly reflecting the dangers of tocacco use
- live coverage of news, current affairs, interviews, public meetings, sports events, cultural events being telecast on television

These exemption are however subject to the conditions:

- that it will not extend to display of brands of tobacco product or product placement, close ups of tobacco products
- it shall be mandatory for the film to include anti-tobacco health spots at the beginning, middle and end of the said film
- in case of television programmes, it shall be mandatory for placement of anti-tobacco health warnings as a prominent scroll at the bottom of the screen or airing of anti-tobacco health spots.

These provisions will come into effect from 1st January 2006.

Crops under NCIS

*146. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and details of the crops which are presently covered under the National Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) the names and details of those new crops which are presently under consideration for being covered under the scheme;